



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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***GOVERNOR LAUNCHES 'INNOVATION FRONTIER ARIZONA'
Aligns Southern Arizona's Education, Knowledge Workforce***

PHOENIX – Governor Janet Napolitano today launched *Innovation Frontier Arizona* (IFA) – a Southern Arizona initiative to align education with the needs of industries in the region. The Governor joined U.S. Assistant Secretary of Labor Emily DeRocco, Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and Congressman Raul Grijalva at the first meeting of IFA members designed to develop the action items of the initiative.

“Southern Arizona is growing so fast that certain skills and wages cannot keep. It is a threat to recent economic advances in the greater region,” said Governor Napolitano. “*Innovation Frontier Arizona* is an important effort to take steps now to help ensure businesses have access to the talent they need to maintain and capitalize on innovation and growth.”

The region possesses a high number of quality jobs in aerospace-defense and information technology industries. These jobs include senior scientists, engineers, technicians and information and intelligence technologists. *Innovation Frontier Arizona* aims to make sure workers receive appropriate training to keep up with technology and that students graduate with the math and science knowledge necessary to enter and support these industries.

Innovation Frontier Arizona complements the initiatives Governor Napolitano has taken to advance economic development in the state, including:

- Attracting 484,500 new jobs and hundreds of business relocations and expansions
- Expanding access to the high-tech, high-wage job market
- More than doubling the amount of grants to small and rural businesses
- Chairing the National Governors Association and launching *Innovation America*
- Partnering with Google, Inc. to increase government transparency and make it easier to access public information
- Launching a “virtual” Innovation and Technology Commercialization Accelerator
- Securing \$12 million in federal grants to create electronic health records, providing real time information to doctors and reducing errors, redundant testing and administrative costs.

Innovation Frontier Arizona is fueled by a recent \$5 million award of a WIRED (Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development) Initiative successfully obtained by Governor Napolitano and administered through the Arizona Department of Commerce.

The *Innovation Frontier Arizona* partnership is extensive; a list of partners is below. Updates and information on IFA will be made available at

http://www.doleta.gov/wired/regions/3g_southern_arizona.cfm.

For more information about the Office of the Governor, please visit www.azgovernor.gov.

Innovation Frontier Arizona Partners

Aerospace, Manufacturing, & Information Technology cluster (AMIT)
Arizona Department of Commerce
Arizona State University
Arizona Western College
Cochise Community College
Cochise County Workforce Development
Corporation for a Skilled Workforce
Douglas Unified School District
ECIII
Economic Blueprint Committee
ETA/U.S. Department of Labor
Evergreen Air Center
General Dynamics
Governor's Council on Workforce Policy
Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation
Joint Alliance of Companies Managing Education for Technology (JACMET)
Loyola Associates
ManTech Telecommunications & Information Systems Corp.
Northern Arizona University
Northrop Grumman
Pima Community College
Pima County Board of Supervisors
Pima County Joint Technological Education District
Pima County ONESTOP Career Center
Pima County Workforce Investment Board
Raytheon Missile Systems
Santa Cruz County
Santa Cruz County One Stop
Sheila Murphy Associates
Sierra Vista Economic Development Foundation
Sierra Vista Public Schools
Southern Arizona Leadership Council
Southern Arizona Logistics Education Organization
Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
Tucson Regional Economic Opportunities
Tucson Unified School District
U.S. Border Patrol
University of Arizona
Yuma County School Superintendent
Yuma Private Industry Council